IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for distributing file content via ~~one~~ two or more cache providers, comprising:

a) purchasing ~~one~~ two or more commodity contracts, wherein each commodity contract specifies a right to use a stated amount of cache resources belonging to a contracted cache provider during a specified time interval for servicing download requests;

b) making file content accessible to at least ~~one~~ two contracted cache ~~provider~~ providers wherefrom it will be available to users for downloading; ~~and~~

c) scheduling at least two blocks of time in respect to at least two separate geographic regions, such that a need for local cache to service download requests from users in a first said region is expected in a first said time block, and a need for local cache to service download requests from users in at least one further said region is expected in at least one further said time block which overlaps no more than partially with the first said time block; and

~~c~~d) taking action which causes one or more devices to redirect download requests that were initially directed to a content provider, such that ~~the~~ at least some requests made during the first said time block will be redirected to ~~said at least one~~a first contracted cache provider~~.~~ for use of cache situated nearer the first said region, and at least some requests made during the further said time block will be redirected to a further contracted cache provider for use of cache situated nearer the further said region.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is carried out by a content provider, at least one of the commodity contracts is purchased from an intermediate party distinct from said at least one contracted cache provider, and the method further comprises directing at least one payment to the intermediate party for a service performed by said at least one contracted cache provider.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the commodity contracts is purchased through a broker.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the commodity contracts is purchased from an exchange, and the method further comprises directing at least one payment to the exchange for a service performed by the pertinent contracted cache provider.

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising paying a fee for at least one cache provider to service at least one download request, wherein the fee is based, at least in part, on total download bandwidth.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cache resources comprise bandwidth.

9-26. (Cancelled)